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23 September 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: "Buffer Zone" Committee Meeting (U)


1. A meeting of the "Buffer Zone" Committee was held on 18 September 1981 at 0930 hours in Room 7D-32, Headquarters. Attendees were:

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William N. Hart, ADDA	Chairman
	PSD
	/RECD
	C/CSD
	OS/TSD
	/MS (C)

2. Mr. Hart commenced with the purpose of the meeting. Briefly, the attendees were to explore the feasibility of establishing an Agency TEMPEST regulation, perhaps to include a "buffer zone" to protect electrical emanations from all new Agency-leased buildings. Mr. Hart also emphasized the need for a prompt decision. The Agency must commit now to lease 105,000 square feet for occupancy in 12 to 14 months. (U)

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3.  outlined the results of his search for potential leased space. To date, he has found five potential spaces which meet the required delivery date, location, and size. Only one of these buildings has room for a "buffer zone" and, in fact, has several other potential problems. (C)

4. A general discussion then developed on the relationship of the levels of sensitivity of the information to be protected to levels of protection required. A dichotomy quickly developed between the ideal of TEMPEST-controlled equipment in physically secured areas and the reality of obtaining commercially leased space that would meet the physical security constraints and do so within our required time frames. (U)

5. There were divergent opinions as to what levels of security should be written into regulations. The hard-liners who would like to see a 10-meter "buffer zone" enforced by guarded areas were quick to admit that it might not be possible to obtain on the locally available market. The committee then discussed what would be an acceptable level of compromise between the ideal and the practical. (U)

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6. The result was a general agreement (with one exception) that the "buffer zone," while the prime defense against compromise of electrical emanations, is, in fact, extremely variable in efficiency. Depending on the time, access, and sophistication of the attack, the effectiveness of the "buffer zone" requires various distances and, in fact, 10 meters is an arbitrary selection. (U)

7. Mr. Hart summed up the meeting with the following:

a. The "buffer zone" is a goal we should try to obtain on all new leases. The OL/RECD should be instructed to include a requirement for a "buffer zone" of approximately 10 meters on all future leases. However, this requirement should be a goal and should not be the ultimate determining factor in leases, but rather be treated on a case-by-case basis. The requirement will not be written into Agency regulations.

b. The regulation on TEMPEST-approved equipment should be beefed up and more strictly enforced. Exceptions to TEMPEST requirements in commercially leased buildings should be more stringently justified than they are now.

c. [] OSO/TCD, was in disagreement and felt that the "buffer zone" should be written into Agency regulations and enforced. (U)

[]

Planning Officer, DDA/MS

cc: Each Attendee

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1-2: got to be
appropriate considering
his reactions at the
mtg! John

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